10th December 1954]

Anti-Hindi demonstrations at railway stations.

* 207 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a number of volunteers of the Congress Youth League and of the Dravidian Federation were arrested by the Police on 1st August 1953, apprehending a clash between them, regarding the erasure of Hindi names from sign boards on the railway platforms at Sattur and Virudunagar in Ramanathapuram district;

(*b*) whether subsequently criminal prosecutions were launched by the Police against both the parties at both the places;

(*c*) whether the volunteers of the Dravidian Federation were sentenced;

(*d*) whether the prosecution against Congress volunteers at Sattur was withdrawn on 5th October 1953;

(*e*) whether the Government interfered and ordered the withdrawal of the prosecution against the Congress volunteers;

(*f*) if so, the reasons for the withdrawal; and

(*g*) if not, whether the Government were informed of the reasons for the withdrawal of the prosecution against Congress volunteers alone?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" (*a*) *to* (*g*) A statement[a] is laid on the table of the House."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR:—" Sir, what are the reasons for not dropping the prosecution at Virudunagar. Is it a fact that the Government withdrew prosecutions against the volunteers of the Youth Congress at the instance and request of Congressmen of Sattur?"

MR. SPEAKER:—" Is it not *sub-judice*?"

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR:—" No, Sir. Everything is over now."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:—" The full answer is given in the statement placed on the table of the House. The hon. Member may go through that statement."

SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR:—" Sir, I went carefully through the statement. I find that when the Government received the report about the incident at Sattur, they thought the offences committed were not serious and those prosecutions were ordered to be dropped. But when the Government received a similar report from Virudunagar, why did they not consider the offences committed or alleged to have been committed at Virudunagar also were not serious and recommend the withdrawal of the prosecution? Is

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 709 infra.

it not correct to say that the prosecutions pending against the Youth Congress were dropped by Government at the instance of local Congressmen of Sattur? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Apart from representations, Government take into consideration the seriousness of the case involved and if it is a trivial matter, that fact is taken into consideration for ordering withdrawal or not. That is why that particular order was passed.''

SRI T. SHANMUGAM :—'' கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, விருது நகரிலே **Additional first-class Magistrate** கோர்ட்டிலே செக்ஷன் 160, **I.P.C.** பிறகாரம் '**one of them was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for one month**' என்று கூறப்பட்டிருக்கிறதே, அவர் காங்கிரஸ் காரரா ? அல்லது திராவிட கழகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவரா என்று கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' I want notice, Sir.'' (Laughter.)

Women workers in the Government Press, Madras.

11-50 a.m. * 208 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the **Minister for** Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of women workers in the Government Press in the year 1953 ;

(*b*) the nature of work turned out by them ; and

(*c*) the minimum wages or salary paid to them?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' (*a*) *to* (*c*) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.''

SRI A. RATNAM :—'' ஸார், நமது சர்க்கார் அச்சகத்திலே 70 பெண்கள் வேலை செய்கிறார்களே, அவர்களில் எத்தனை பேர்கள் நிரந்தரமாக வேலை செய்கிறார்கள் ? எத்தனை பேர்கள் தாற்காலிகமாக வேலை செய்து வருகிறார்கள் ? அதிலே விதவைகள், மற்றும் அனாதைகள் எத்தனை பேர்கள் என்று கனம் மந்திரியார் அவர்கள் சொல்ல முடியுமா ? ''

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—'' I have no information as to the nature of their service, whether they are permanent or temporary. About their private life, whether they are widows or married and all that, I am not interested in it.'' (Laughter.)

Collection of land revenue by the panchayat boards.

* 209 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government are considering any proposal to entrust the panchayat boards in the State with the collection of land revenue?

---

[a] **Printed as Appendix II on page 710 infra.**